

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application pursuant to and consistent with 37 CFR 1.111 are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication, at page 7 of the Official Action, that claims 48, 49, 51-69, 71, and 98-101 are allowed, and that claim 73 would be allowable if amended to place it in independent format. By the present Amendment, claim 73 has been amended to place it in independent format. No new matter has been added.

PRIORITY

In response to the Examiner's request, at page 2 of the Official Action, that the continuing application data in the present specification be updated, Applicants note that the continuing application data were updated in Applicants' amendment filed February 2, 2000. The Official Action mailed April 17, 2000 (Paper No. 54) indicated that Applicants' amendment had been entered. The continuing application data have not changed since that date. The Examiner is respectfully urged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative should he desire further information on this point.

DRAWINGS

At pages 3-4 of the Official Action, the Examiner notes that Figures 13A-13I, 14, 15A, 15B, 16A, 16B, 17A, 17B, 18A, 18B, 19A, 19B, 20, and 21 have been submitted in color, and requests that Applicants either cancel the drawings, provide substitute black and white drawings, or file an acceptable Petition to accept color drawings. Substitute black and white drawings are being prepared, and will be submitted as soon as they are available.

DOUBLE-PATENTING

Claims 72, 76-86, 88-93, 95-97, and 102-104 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as purportedly obvious over claims 1-13 of U.S. Patent 6,344,315. Without conceding to the Examiner's arguments, but solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, attached hereto is a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent 6,344,315. In view of the filing of this Terminal Disclaimer, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 72, 76-86, 88-93, 95-97, and 102-104 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as purportedly obvious over claims 1-16 of U.S. Patent 6,500,612. Without conceding to the Examiner's arguments, but solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, attached hereto is a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent 6,500,612. In view of the filing of this Terminal Disclaimer, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 72, 76-86, 88-93, 95-97, and 102-104 are rejected under the judicially-created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as purportedly obvious over claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 13-16, 19-29, and 31 of U.S. Patent 6,280,929. Without conceding to the Examiner's arguments, but solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, attached hereto is a Terminal Disclaimer over U.S. Patent 6,280,929. In view of the filing of this Terminal Disclaimer, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

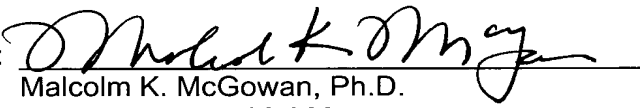
From the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order, and such action is earnestly solicited.

In the event that there are any questions concerning the present Amendment, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of the application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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